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**CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF JOHN W. VAUGHT AND JOHN A. POOL,  
BOTH OF FRANKLIN, INDIANA AND PRIVATES IN  
COMPANY I, 70TH INDIANA INFANTRY**

[Owned in the 1960s by the Franklin Public Library, Franklin, IN]

[Copied in the 1960s for the collection of the Allen County Public Library  
under the direction of Fred J. Reynolds.]

Allen County Public Library  
900 Webster Street  
PO Box 2270  
Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270



Camp - Kings  
Lawyers - Tenn June the 11<sup>th</sup> 1863  
Dear Sister

I received your  
kind and most welcome letter  
which came to hand in due time  
and was glad to hear from you  
and was glad to hear that you was  
all well and getting along so well  
I am well at present and well  
satisfied and all the rest of the  
boys are all well and enjoying  
themselves finely and I hope these  
few lines may find you enjoying  
the same good blessing of God well  
since I last wrote to you we have  
moved a little farther down in  
distie we are 16 miles from Nashville  
Camped now what is called the  
Stone River battle ground we can  
find some gun shells in the woods

My dear Sir,  
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th inst. in relation to the matter of the  
estate of the late John Smith, deceased. I am sorry to hear that you are unable to produce the will of the deceased, but I am  
glad to hear that you have been able to obtain the necessary evidence to establish the facts of the case. I am  
satisfied that the court will be able to reach a just decision in the matter. I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
Yours, very truly,  
J. H. Smith



that failed to burst me have  
a beautiful Camp we have got  
little log cabins to live in  
we are going to turn all old tents  
over the quartermaster and when  
we leave here I guess we will draw  
new tents Well we are only 16  
miles from Murfreesboro  
and only 15 or 20 miles from General  
Rosecrans lines when they get  
to fighting there we can hear  
the cannonading very plainly they  
had a fight at Franklin Tenn  
last week only twenty miles from  
here and we could hear the big  
guns plain Well as far <sup>well</sup> as far news I  
have nothing new in fact we have  
no right late news I expect you  
hear more news there than we  
do so enough of that for this time  
Well that I have not heard from  
home for a good while I would like  
to hear from home the best is the

It is a great pleasure to hear of  
the success of your mission and  
the many good things that are  
being done for the people of  
the country. I am sure that  
your efforts will be rewarded  
in the end. I am very glad  
to hear that you are all well  
and happy. I hope to hear  
from you again soon. I am  
your friend and supporter.  
Yours truly,  
[Signature]



would and if you hear from  
him write to me and if I hear  
I will do the same. Well we are going to  
be paid off again this evening or in  
the morning the pay master is paying  
off in the regiment now we only get  
two months pay which is twenty  
six dollars the boys are always  
ready to receive green backs fully  
for Green backs Well I am going  
to send you a picture it is a  
company record it will have all  
the names of the officers and privates  
we was to get them when we was  
paid off so I guess we will get them  
before long and then I will send  
it and I am going to send one home  
they cost me one dollar and a half  
apiece I want you to have it framed  
Well enough of that Well how long  
we will stay here I do not know  
the boys all seem to move on  
better





Still I have not much news  
to write that would prove interesting  
to you so I guess I had better  
close before I weary your patience.

So I will close for the present.  
I want you to write as soon as  
this comes to hand if you think  
this short letter to a close for  
the present. Write soon.  
I will have to quit and go and  
draw my money.

When this you see think  
of me and think of one that often  
thinks of thee.

Let this be our motto in  
God is our trust.

John W. Vaught

To Mrs. Martha A. Magill







Camp. Mead, Margarita, Tenn.  
August 10<sup>th</sup> 1863.  
Dear Sister

it is with the greatest  
pleasure that I find myself seated this  
pleasant Sabbath morning with pen in hand  
to try and write you a few lines in  
answer to your kind and most welcome  
letter which came to hand a few days  
ago. Though I do not feel much like  
writing after being on picket all night  
but I will do the best I can at the  
present. your letter found me well and in  
good spirits, and was glad to hear that  
you was all well and doing well where you  
wrote and I hope these few lines may find  
you still enjoying the same good blessing of  
god. The rest of the boys are all well and  
enjoying them selves finely. We are getting  
along well and having gay old time. Generally  
we have plenty to eat, plenty to wear.





and plenty to drink we have a barrel  
to keep our bacon in and the greatest  
trouble is to keep it from getting wet  
there is so many live animals in it  
that they keep it running. Bully for  
the meat. Well we have very warm  
weather here it is very warm in daytime  
but the nights are very pleasant. Well  
I am glad to hear that will was in the  
home guards and I think every true  
patriotic man should and be ready to  
defend their own state you said will had  
got his gun and was going to draw his  
uniform in a few days I would like to  
see him in his soldiers suit. I say  
Bully for Billy, your State in your  
letter but you heard that John  
Stewart was dead I saw an account in  
in a daily paper stating that there was a  
private John Stewart killed in the  
17th whether it was him or not I do not  
know Stewart was corporal therefore  
I hardly think it was him



Well, Mat, you said that you did not  
know of the first one of the bulletins  
- that went to fight old Morgan and that  
you only knew of one that belonged to the  
home guards and that that was John  
King. I did not know that he was a  
bulletin. I thought he was all right  
- at least he talked that way before we  
left and I want to know in the next  
letter if he has turned out to be a  
bulletin. Well I have got a letter  
from home for a couple of weeks the last  
letter that I got was dated July the 10<sup>th</sup>  
and he served me just as he did you.  
He ~~was~~ never told me while he was in the  
he was in the fight at Vicksburg or not.  
Well, Mat and me are having a good time eating  
roasting ears we have got a lot in now cooking  
for dinner we have got home had roasting ears  
for a week or two. Sam Kelly and I got what  
- what we are cooking to day while we are  
out on picket fence come over and take dinner  
with us for a week it would be a rarity for you






to get corn to eat. I will tell you  
the prices of some vegetables down here  
in this potato is worth 15 cents a dozen  
and about the size of a partridge egg.  
onions 5 cents a piece rootings call thereof a  
dime beets five cents a piece tomatoes five  
cents a tinful apples five cents each  
butter sixty cents per pound eggs forty  
cents a dozen chickens fifty cents  
a piece and about the size of a partridge  
this is the way things sell here  
to the folks. Well I have written  
all I know and perhaps a little more  
so I will close this unpleasing letter  
for I expect you think Labns letters  
is not worth much anyway but if you  
think this worth answering please write  
soon and give me all the news  
and oblige you Brother John Wroughton  
Well I must close for the present for  
I am not much of a hand to write anyway  
but if I was there I could keep you  
busy answering questions for a week right  
straight along and I am in hopes that  
it will not be long til me will all  
be at home to enjoy the pleasures of  
home and friends. I remain as ever your  
true brother till death. John Wroughton  
please write soon { Mills, West, Mayall  
I am going to send you  
a song in this letter. I shall  
tell you what you think of it.





Camp of the 70<sup>th</sup> Ind vol  
Nashville Tenn Oct the 13<sup>th</sup> 1863  
Ever Dear Sister

It is with the  
greatest of pleasure that I find  
myself seated with pen in hand to try  
and write you a few lines in answer  
to your most kind and welcome  
letter which I received a few days  
since and would have answered it  
sooner if I had not been on  
duty I am well and happy and  
in good spirits and hope these  
few lines may find you all well  
and getting along well I was sorry  
to hear that little Eddy had been  
sick and also of Johnny getting burnt  
but hope he will be well by the  
time this comes to hand. The rest  
of the boys are all well and in  
fine spirits. 



Well I have not much to  
write so I guess this will be  
a short letter. Well I have been  
down to the point I started  
Friday night at ten o'clock and got  
back Monday at ten o'clock  
We went to bridge port ~~and~~  
Alabama I saw the big bridge  
that is being built across the  
Tenn river it will be sixteen  
hundred feet long when it is  
finished. the Tenn river I think  
is a very nice river. I washed  
my hands and face in the river  
I expect I will be on train guard  
again tomorrow. Well the  
weather is tolerable cool  
at the present it commenced  
raining yesterday evening about three  
o'clock and rained most all night  
and is still raining our tent  
is not much of a shelter  
when it rains hard





as for rail news we have  
nothing at all we have heard  
nothing from General Crosby for  
several days I expect you hear  
more there than we do. I have  
heard nothing from him for some  
time I did hear that they had  
moved about one hundred miles  
from new Orleans how true it  
is I do not know. The boys  
are all anxious to hear how the  
election goes to day I wish the  
soldiers could have been allowed  
to vote the Ohio soldiers gets  
to vote and also the Iowa troops  
and I think the Indiana soldiers  
have as good a right to vote as they  
well as I told you in the  
start that this was to be a  
short letter so I will close  
for the present hoping to hear from  
you soon if you think this letter  
worth answering well -



I heard from the 17<sup>th</sup> Ind  
last Sunday their adjutant  
was here in our camp. He  
said their boys were all well  
and happy up to last Friday  
he said their regt was not in  
much of the last battle  
but they have fought old  
Wheeler's cavalry four times since  
he crossed the river

Well I must close for I  
have two more letters to write  
this evening please write soon  
as this comes to hand

yours with respect  
I still remain your ever  
true friend til death

John W  
Vaughn

Go. Nathl. Magill

Let this be our motto  
in god is our trust





FEBRUARY TH 13 1863

*Trichostema flavescens*

Dear sister is not to be excused  
most friends myself selected as you with a few  
times to let you know and getting a long done  
well and happy and enjoying great pleasure and health  
these few times to let you know they will find you enjoying  
the same great blessing that they are all well and  
gillieck was yesterday morning and tomorrow  
it is not as you are all the way of long and hard  
the much and water that is good to be like that  
we got there about 10 o'clock and then shall be  
age our tents when we got down it was dark and  
we had not had a bite to eat till then we were  
well and cold we kindled a fire in the tent and  
a hazel set of Boys you never saw them we were  
we soon got dry and comfortable and we enjoyed  
the night highly from then till this morning we  
fixed our tents now and we find ourselves a little  
diseased a few times by our friends which we weigh one  
hundred and seventy seven pounds today  
that is in 13 well for me



And you will like too, no hours and still is  
 along in religious matters I will tell you will I  
 living the best I can and living as near  
 right as I can I will change my duty as far as I  
 can and I feel that if it is gods will for me to  
 fight in the battle field that I am fit and gods  
 willing my helper I expect to live all my days  
 in the service of my master I feel that some one  
 will have me get out of the church for some  
 things that I think I do nothing but what  
 is right from what I hear Will I expect to  
 be a Christian in the war or not I don't  
 care and my faith is god help me and give  
 grace and help me in time of need it may  
 be too late now it is in the army we are  
 surrounded in every hand by enemies and  
 we no more what we do now will bring us  
 money for gold my testament is my faith god  
 help me and for bid that I should be a  
 backslider the beggar of this world that  
 is my friend for the price of the Holy Spirit  
 will change your lot and you will agree  
 all the things look very dark now at this time  
 but soon they will look brighter





Slept many friends and father. I met her  
brother and sister that time and those were the  
last time it was a hard time too far to visit  
them but some one had too good to have some  
hard times there but we had to get too good  
through this world a few of us of course I must  
leave my sister too and I hope that you  
will remember me I was glad for the fact that  
you gave too no in your letter and hope you will  
continue to do so that is what we need and  
no more at present write soon

I still remain your affection-  
friend

Yours truly

John A. Paul

Too William C. Gill

His religion that brings in sweetest  
pleasures while we live. I hope to be with you when  
we die. Let us put all our trust in God and  
if we go to him the right way and he will receive  
him put all our trust in him. He will answer  
our prayers soon more

Good By till I write again







